Return to the old tenets

H. E. WINDER: Art view

D.M. 11/2-1975

Etchings, Drypoint and Aquatint by Karin Jaroszynska and Tadeusz Jaroszynski — Gallery 21, Hyde Park Corner, Jan Smuts Avenue.

THESE very talented husband-and-wife artists have recently returned to this city after some months of painting, drawing and study in Europe. Particularly they have been working on a refresher course in etching in Helsinki in Finland.

They have returned with some of the fruits of these labours and the etching now on view in this gallery is particularly pleasing.

I say some of the fruits, for items of some of their latest work were eagerly snapped up in Scandinavia and Spain.

They have studied the traditional methods and techniques and the enchanting pictures now on exhibition are a sign of how well they have absorbed all they have seen and practised.

It is thrilling to see a return to the old tenets that every statement must be a matter of the properly bitten line and that each plate must be clean and without smearing of ink for effect.

The blacks — and these are particularly noticeable in such prints as "Egg Fall-out", "Nordic Rhapsody" and "Monument to the Forest" — have that rich, luminous density for which the greatest etcher of all time, Rembrandt, was famous.

One notices the excellence of confident line and subtlety of tone, especially in those where aquatint has been employed. Here they acquire that very satisfying transparency akin to watercolour.

The artists have brought back with them the paraphernalia necessary for this delightful art and it is to be hoped that we shall shortly see a reawakening interest in this splendid technique.